

REMARKS

Claims 22-38, 40-48, 50, and 53-55, as amended, and new claims 56-79, appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants elect, with traverse, the claims directed to a printed patch classified in Group II and including at least original claims 22-38 and new claim 56. Accordingly claims 1-21, 39, 49, 51 and 52 have been cancelled without prejudice to applicants' right to file a divisional application for those claims.

Independent claims 40 and 50 were amended to depend from claim 22. It is respectfully submitted that these claims should be rejoined for examination, since the only use of the present printed patch is for administration of an active agent by a transdermal route, and that is what both the patch and method claims recite. Thus, the search for prior art for these inventions requires a review of the same classes and subclasses for each type claim, since the patch art must be reviewed to determine whether any printed patches are disclosed, while the method art must be reviewed to determine if any active agents are administered transdermally by a printed patch. Accordingly, claims 40-48, 50, and 53-55 should also be examined with the Group II claims. Applicants also reserve the right to file a divisional application for original claims 40-48 and 53-55.

Similarly, new claims 57-79, which are supported by initial claims 1-21, 51 and 52 but are dependent upon claim 22, should also be examined with the other current claims. These claims are directed to a system of use of the printed patch along with an apparatus for making microchannels in the patient's skin. It is respectfully submitted that the presence of an allowable patch claim will also render claims 57-79 allowable based on their dependency to an allowable patch or composition claim.

As no new matter is introduced by these amendments or additions, their entry at this time is warranted. It is respectfully submitted that these changes now cause the invention to be directed to a single invention, so that an examination of all remaining claims at this time is appropriate.

In view of the prior art of which applicants are aware, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30,256)

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP
Customer Number 28765
(212) 294-3311